Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and rewrite claim 14 in independent form as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

a camera; and

a processor unit operatively connected to the camera, for adding a copy protection code corresponding to a paid fee to a video bitstream or still image information created by the camera for output.

2. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information, and operable in a condition that an appropriate fee has been paid or will be paid at a designated time; and

means for creating a copy protection code to be associated with the video bitstream or still image information depending on a paid fee.

3. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

a communication interface connectable to an external terminal;

a camera for creating and recording a video bitstream or still image information by video or still image recording in response to a start recording instruction from a user when an appropriate fee has been paid;

a display unit for displaying a recorded video bitstream or still image information; and

means for feeding to said external terminal via said interface, the video bitstream or still image information together with a copy protection code created depending on an amount of a paid fee in response to an instruction from the user indicating that the video bitstreams or still image information displayed is acceptable.

4. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a charge processor unit and a display unit, in which the display unit displays a paid fee and the number of allowed copies which is fixed in correspondence with the paid fee.

5. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for selecting a background; and

a synthesizer for synthesizing the video bitstream or still image information with a selected background.

6. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for obtaining audio along with the video bitstream or still image information.

7. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

camera means for creating and recording video or a still image for a predetermined period of time in response to a start recording instruction from a user in a condition that an appropriate fee is paid or positively charged;

means for generating an ID uniquely identifying a recorded video or still image; and

transmitter means for transmitting said ID to a terminal and for transmitting said ID with said recorded video or still image to a server.

8. (previously presented)   A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

a copy protection code corresponding to an amount of a paid fee is incorporated in said ID.

9. (previously presented):   A video or still image information generating apparatus, comprising:

a communication interface connectable to a server;

a camera responsive to a start recording instruction from a user, for creating and recording a video bitstream or still image information for a predetermined period of time;

display means for displaying a recorded video bitstream or still image information;

means for feeding to said server, via said interface, the video bitstream or still

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image information together with a copy protection code created in correspondence with an amount of a paid fee in response to an instruction from the user indicating that the video bitstream or still image information displayed is acceptable.

Claim 10-11 (Cancelled)

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended)   A video or still image distribution server according to claim 13, comprising:

means for receiving and storing into a storage a video bitstream or still image information in association with a first ID uniquely specifying the video bitstream or still image information;

means for receiving from a communication terminal, a transmission request including destination information and a second ID identifying the video bitstream or still image information, retrieving from the storage a video bitstream or still image information having the first ID matched with the second ID, and distributing the retrieved video bitstream or still image information to a destination specified by said destination information;

wherein the first ID includes a copy protection code, and the server includes a management unit for updating the copy protection code for each time of distribution so as to inhibit the distribution of the video bitstream or still image information when the copy protection code reaches a predetermined number.

15. (previously presented) A video or still image information system comprising:

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a video or still information generating apparatus;

a first multimedia communication terminal; and

a distribution server,

wherein said video or still information generating apparatus comprises:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information in a condition that a necessary fee is paid or will be positively paid at predetermined time; and

means for relating a copy protection code corresponding to a paid fee to the video bitstream or still image information;

wherein said first multimedia communication terminal comprises:

a storage device for storing the video bitstream or still image information transferred from said video information generating apparatus;

a memory for storing the copy protection code transferred from said video information generating apparatus together with the video bitstream or still image information;

transmission means for transmitting the video bitstream or still image information stored in said storage device to a specified destination; and

controller means for inhibiting the transmission means from transmitting the video bitstream or still image information when the number of allowed copies specified by the copy protection code becomes zero; and

wherein said distribution server transfers the video bitstream or still image information received from said first multimedia communication terminal to a second

multimedia communication terminal at said specified destination.

16. (previously presented) A video or still image information system comprising:

a video or still information generating apparatus;

a distribution server; and

a first multimedia communication terminal;

wherein said video or still information generating apparatus comprises:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information in condition that an appropriate fee is paid or will be positively paid at a predetermined time;

means for outputting the video bitstream or still image information together with a copy protection code issued in correspondence with a fee paid; and

means for outputting an ID identifying the video bitstream or still image information;

wherein said video distribution server is configured to receive and store the video bitstream or still image information as well as the ID identifying the video bitstream or still image information;

wherein said first multimedia communication terminalcomprises:

means for receiving and storing the ID identifying the video bitstream or still image information stored in said video distribution server;

means for creating a destination; and

means for transmitting the ID and the destination to said video

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distribution server to request said video distribution server to distribute

the video bitstream or still image information; and

wherein said video distribution server further comprises means for comparing

the ID received from said first multimedia communication terminal with the ID

received from said video information generating apparatus in order to retrieve a

requested video bitstream or still image information in the storage and to distribute

the requested video bitstream or still image information to a second multimedia

communication terminal specified by said destination.

17. (previously presented) A video information generating apparatus

comprising:

a communication interface provided to interface with an external terminal;

a charge processor;

a camera for creating output of a video bitstream by video recording for a

predetermined period of time in response to a start recording instruction from a user,

when an appropriate fee has been paid to the charge processor;

a display unit for displaying a recorded video bitstream;

means for feeding to said external terminal, via said communication interface,

the video bitstream added to a copy protection code created depending on an

amount of a paid fee in response to an instruction of the user indicating that the

video displayed is acceptable; and

means for enabling a visual display of the number of copies allowed of the

video recording and the paid fee corresponding thereto.

18. (previously presented) A video information generating apparatus

according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for selecting a background;

a synthesizer for synthesizing the recorded video bitstream with a selected background.

19. (previously presented) A video information generating apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an audio bitstream is obtained along with said camera to feed the audio bitstream to said external device along with the video bitstream.

20. (previously presented) A video information generating apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a copy protection code manager for managing the number of copies by extracting the copy protection code from the video bitstream; and

a controller for inhibiting transmission of the video bitstream, via said communication interface, when the number of allowed copies becomes zero (0).